

OPPORTUNITY EUGENE

A COMMUNITY TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS

Report
and
Recommendations



Photo courtesy of: The Register Guard

OPPORTUNITY EUGENE

- Task Force Overview
- Recommendations
- Momentum



Presentation Group

- Dan Bryant – First Christian Church
- Michael Carrigan – Community Alliance of Lane County
- David Mandelblatt – Downtown Neighborhood Association
- Claire Syrett – Human Service Commission
- Michael Wisth – C.O.E. Community Development

Task Force Charge:

- Develop recommendations addressing needs and impacts for our unhoused community members.
- The task force is to report back to the City Council within 90 days
- Appointed by the Mayor, members will include:
 - City Councilors,
 - Community Members,
 - Representatives from Occupy Eugene,
 - Nonprofit Human Service Agencies, and
 - Human Rights Commission.

OVERVIEW

Membership

58 people representing the following groups:

- City Council and the Mayor
- City Staff
- Human Services
- Faith Community
- Neighborhood Leadership
- Human Rights Commission
- Sustainability Commission
- Occupy Eugene
- Community Members

Facilitated by Laurel Singer and Peter Harkema of Oregon Consensus

- Assisted by Community Mediation Services

C.O.E Staff: Chuck Crockett and Michael Wisth



OVERVIEW

Meetings occurred at the following dates/ times:

Wednesday January 4th, 12 – 2 p.m.

- Organizational Meeting: Mayor's Welcome. Planning committee developed

Tuesday January 24th, 9-11 a.m.

- Organizational Meeting: Working agreements, education, establishing priorities, and organizing to accomplish goals

Tuesday February 7th, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

- Initial ideas and recommendations

Thursday February 23rd, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

- Formulated ideas and recommendations

Tuesday March 6th, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

- Review Recommendations and Report to the Board

Friday, March 26th 9:30 – 12 p.m.

- Final Report to be submitted to the Council



OVERVIEW

Planning Committee

**Five meetings to
set agendas and
offer
recommendations
to the task force**



OVERVIEW

Groups developed lists of issues related to the conditions of homelessness and developed the following prioritized areas



Day Use

Housing & Shelter

Laws & Barriers

Wealth Generation

Health Care

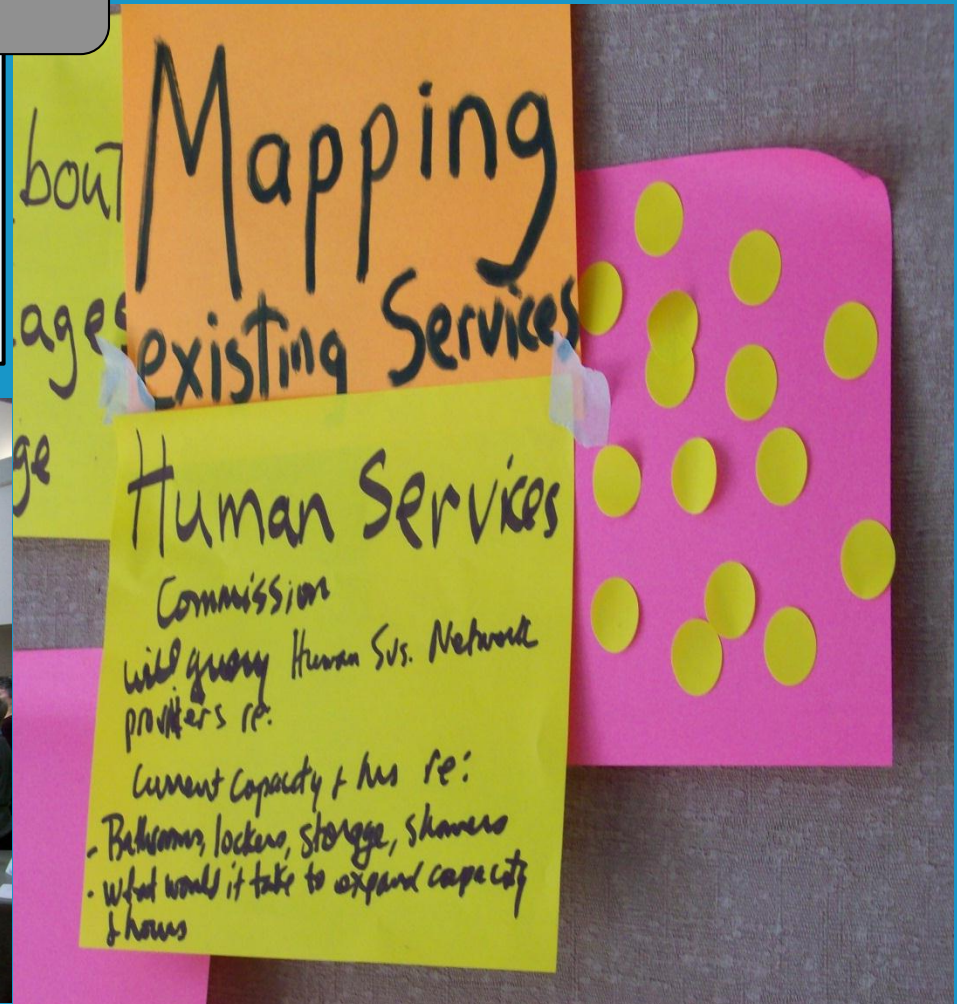
Sustainability

Community Engagement

OVERVIEW

Subcommittee Work

Developed reports to assist
in developing
implementation items



RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

**Identify and
Establish Potential
Sites**

**Create and Support
Day Use Community
Centers**

**Improve Traditional
and Non-Traditional
Health Care Access**

**Continue and
Expand Existing
Services to the
Homeless**

**Improve Laws and
Ordinances that
Criminalize and
Block Homeless
Individuals**

**Create a
Commission to
Continue to Explore
Homelessness
Solutions**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Identify & Establish Potential Sites

Direct city staff to work with community members to identify potential sites in order to establish a safe and secure place to be, opened by October 1, 2012, independently financed with oversight by a not-for-profit organization or agency.

Related Implementation Items:

- Approve a conditional use permit change to enable expansion of the Eugene Mission from occupancy of 400 to 643.
- Change the number of legal car/tent camping spaces to reflect a range rather than an absolute limit, e.g. three to six spaces per site, depending on the characteristics of the site

RECOMMENDATIONS

Create and Support Day Use Community Centers

The Task Force has identified a critical need for more day centers and for the increased capacity of existing day centers.

Related Implementation Items:

- Build and manage lockers at various locations near the major unofficial camping sites around Eugene. Consider working with faith groups to do this.
- Open bathrooms outside the Exclusion Zone and mark those in the Zone.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Improve Traditional and Non-Traditional Health Care Access

The combination of mental health issues, substance abuse, chronic homelessness, and physical illness affect a disproportionate number of homeless individuals.

Related Implementation Items:

- City endorses and supports the new Street Outreach Program that is being formed as an outgrowth of the Occupy Eugene Medical Program.
- City agrees to work with existing local healthcare organizations to identify ways to increase access to healthcare, including providing organizational or staff support as needed.
- Encourage peer-support mental health services specific to the needs of the homeless.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue and Expand Existing Services to the Homeless

Understanding there is a strong social service network within the City of Eugene and Lane County, the task force is careful to suggest that any new initiatives do not result in diverting funding and support from existing homeless and low-income service providers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Improve Laws and Ordinances that Criminalize and Block Homeless Individuals

Many city ordinances, codes and policies have the unintended effect of criminalizing life-sustaining activities. In addition they may serve to make it more difficult for people to access more permanent housing and shelter.

Related Implementation Items:

- Review the offenses that trigger exclusion in the downtown core, and drop the ones that are essentially nuisance crimes
- Direct the Chief of Police to direct his officers to cease and desist requesting exclusion for violations for such things as writing with side-walk chalk, resting on or against a planter or wall, sleeping on private property, or illegal camping

RECOMMENDATIONS

Create a Commission to Continue to Explore Homelessness Solutions

To strengthen the voice of these recommendations and ensure continued innovation as needed, it is important for an ongoing voice to champion the topic and keep it in the forefront of policy issues.

This body should work to create community engagement surrounding homelessness issues.

MOMENTUM

Day Use

- St Vincent de Paul – Expansion of Lindholm Service Station
- Catholic Community Services

Housing & Shelter

- Expansion of Car/ Tent Camping
- Eugene Mission

Health Care

- White Bird Chrysalis Expansion
- Eugene Mission/White Bird



Increased awareness & involvement

- LTD Survey
- Community Participation

Table 1
Most Important Issue in Eugene

Response Category	N=400
Unemployment/create jobs	15%
Help the homeless	9%
Education funding	8%
Better road maintenance	6%
Improve economy – general	6%
Education – general	6%
Downtown revitalization	5%
Improve law enforcement	5%
Lower taxes	3%
All other responses	2% or less
None/nothing	3%
Don't know	11%

Source: DHM Research, Feb 2012

DISCUSSION

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Establish Potential
Sites**

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